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TAGS: ASEC PGOV PREL KPKO SOCI AU UNSC SU
SUBJECT: ABYEI JOINT SECURITY UNITS SEVERELY HAMPERED BY EQUIPMENT DELAYS

¶11. (SBU) SUMMARY: In response to offers by donor countries to contribute to the newly-formed JIU and JIPU in Abyei, UNMIS has proposed a partnership package, including a donor trust fund, to facilitate donations. However, lack of will and both UN and Sudanese bureaucracy threaten to prevent the rapid acquisition of equipment vital to the new units' mission. END SUMMARY.

New Joint Security Units for Abyei

¶12. (SBU) The June 8 Abyei Roadmap agreement provides for the deployment of a reconstituted Joint Integrated Unit (JIU) battalion as well as a joint police unit (JIPU), both made up of personnel drawn from the north and south Sudan. The previous Abyei JIU battalion disintegrated during the outbreak of fighting in May. The JIPU also arrived last month and is still in the process of deploying. The JIPU will be unique to Abyei. Personnel for the new JIU arrived in Abyei approximately one month ago. The new JIU lacks any equipment or supplies and is currently dependent on UNMIS support for accommodation, water, and some rations. UNMIS has been providing accommodation (in the form of tents) and rudimentary training (hygiene, camp routine, basic military tactics, and rule of law).

¶13. (SBU) According to the UK DATT, who visited Abyei August 20, the JIU is now fully manned, but lacks the equipment required to perform its security mission. He said the JIPU is in the process of being staffed and trained. Despite early concerns that the two units might overlap in their missions and create confusion, he reported that the JIU and the JIPU are cooperating well and have worked out a division of responsibilities. However, the JIPU suffers from a divided chain of command, having to report to both the GNU in Khartoum and GOSS in Juba.

UNMIS Seeks to Facilitate Bilateral Donations

¶14. (SBU) Although according to the CPA the GNU is responsible for funding the JIUs, to date it only has provided about 40% of the JIUs' total budgetary requirements, enough for salaries, but leaving the existing JIUs lacking in basic infrastructure and equipment to carry out their intended mission. Several donor countries (e.g., UK, the Netherlands, Egypt) expressed interest in providing bilateral support to activate the new Abyei security units. In response to these offers, UNMIS has circulated a proposal to donor country-embassies for a partnership to support the reconstituted JIU battalion in Abyei. (Note: UNMIS proposal has been transmitted electronically to AF/SPG. End note.) Simultaneously, UNMIS has circulated a proposal for a separate JIPU Rapid Deployment Package.

Abyei JIU Immediate Needs Package

¶5. (SBU) UNMIS is proposing a partnership among the JIU, UNMIS, and donor countries to provide the Abyei battalion with a package of training, materiel, and specialist support to make the unit operational. Support would take the form of accommodations and infrastructure, communications, and transport. UNMIS estimates the approximate total cost of the package at US\$4.01 million.

¶6. (SBU) The proposed UNMIS partnership envisions Sudan's JIU and UNMIS acting as a clearing house for proposals and funds and providing advice and assistance to the Abyei battalion. UNMIS already is providing limited direct support to the Abyei JIU as described above. UNMIS is soliciting donor country contributions to fund the remaining requirements. The UK reportedly has made available funds for quick impact procurement of equipment outside of the proposed trust fund. Once the Abyei JIU becomes operational, the battalion's on-going costs would be funded by the GNU, in accordance with the CPA.

¶7. (SBU) UNMIS estimates of specific JIU requirements and associated costs are:

Command, control and information systems	\$192,954
Electricity supply	\$224,023
Transport	\$852,020
Engineering equipment	\$1,530,653
Accommodation	\$1,208,987

JIPU Rapid Deployment Package

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¶8. (SBU) UNMIS has proposed a similar assistance package to provide support needed to activate the Abyei JIPU. UNMIS proposes that it

KHARTOUM 00001293 002 OF 002

provide the JIPU with the same support it is providing the JIU. In addition, it will rebuild two damaged police stations in Abyei for the use of the JIPU. It is seeking donor support for additional requirements, totaling an estimated US\$853,332. Some donors who are prohibited by law from providing military assistance, (e.g., Germany and Norway) may be willing to donate to JIPU support.

¶9. (SBU) UNMIS breaks down JIPU requirements and associated costs as:

Basic orientation program	\$93,790
Workshop on post-conflict trauma	\$10,170
Workshop on conflict resolution	\$10,170
Office equipment	\$44,082
Uniforms & personal equipment	\$367,476
Communication equipment	\$122,097
Transport	\$205,547

UN/Sudanese Bureaucracy Hinder Procurement

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¶10. (SBU) According to the UNMIS POC for JIU issues, purchases for the JIU from the Trust Fund will be made through the UN procurement system. The UNMIS POC complained that the UN system is complicated and slow. As a result, he anticipates that procurement of equipment urgently needed for the JIU to perform its mission will take months.

¶11. (SBU) The UK reportedly has made available bilateral funds outside of the Trust Fund for quick-impact purchases. However, our UNMIS contact said that when it sought to use some of this money to import commercial radios for JIU communications, it had difficulty obtaining the required end-user certificates from the GNU, although the JIU is a Sudanese government entity. He expressed frustration at the apparent lack of urgency on the part of Sudanese authorities.

Another concern is the receptivity of the Joint Defense Board (JDB -- the JIUs' command) to outside assistance. On at least one occasion, the JDB blocked a package of assistance to the JIUs from Norway.

Comment

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¶12. (SBU) UNMIS' positive initiative represents an effort to facilitate assistance from donor states that would like to support implementation of the Abyei roadmap by assisting the two joint security units there. This effort deserves our support despite limited USG ability to provide material assistance to the JIU and JIPU due to US legal restrictions. UNMIS' efforts are at risk of being thwarted by a combination of UN bureaucracy and lack of urgency on the part of Sudanese authorities. Post plans to raise the issue of JIU and JIPU support with Sudanese authorities, and we suggest that this should also be part of any future bilateral discussions headed by the Special Envoy.

ASQUINO